

State of New York
 City & County of New York } S. S.

Harlan R. Smith being
 duly sworn says that he resides in the city of
 New York and that he called at the U. S. Mint in
 Philadelphia in June 1886 and went to the Coin and
 Medal Clerk and requested to be furnished with a
 proof gold Dollar of the current year. The Clerk
 opened a small writing desk and took out a round
 paper box which contained numerous gold proofs
 he scraped them over with his fingers and rubbed
 them together upon which proceeding deponent looked
 with utter astonishment as it defaced the Coin with
 pin marks and scratches. Deponent had always believed
 and still believes that proof coins are struck by the
 Government for the benefit of Coin Collectors who are
 required to pay a premium for such perfect coins
 and that from the improper manner in which they were
 handled by this Clerk they wereblemished and therefore
 collectors ought not to be compelled to pay a premium
 for such ignorance and incompetency displayed by
 the Clerk in Charge of that department. Deponent
 further states that the Clerk informed him that
 there was no ^{proof} gold dollars to be had and that he
 then requested to be furnished with two silver proof
 sets and twenty minor proof sets and when
 said request was made the Clerk made some
 remark which left the impression on deponent's

mind that he the Clerk was confining a great favor upon him and acted as though he owned the entire Mint and the contents thereof. Dependent therefore claims that the Government should not employ Clerks unless they are fully competent for such position and said Clerk having been shown to be clearly incompetent he should be removed.

Sworn to before me this
6th day of December 1886

H. P. Smeil

Edwin Sack
Notary Public
New York County.
Term expires March 30th 1887



265 1/2

RG104 E-1 Box 143 Dec 1886

New York.

Dec. 6, 1886.

Harlan P. Smith

Affidavit relative
to conduct of Marshal
Clerk.

Rec'd

Dec. 7, 1886.

[Abstract:] Affidavit relative to conduct of medal clerk.

State of New York }
City & County of New York } S.S.

Harlan P. Smith being duly sworn says that he resides in the city of New York and that he called at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia in June 1886 and went to the Coin and Medal Clerk and requested to be furnished with a proof gold Dollar of the current year. The clerk opened a small writing desk and took out a round paper box which contained numerous gold proofs he scraped them over with his fingers and rubbed them together upon which proceeding deponent looked with utter astonishment as it defaced the Coin with pen marks and scratches. Deponent had always believed and still believes that proof coins are struck by the Government for the benefit of Coin Collectors who are required to pay a premium for such perfect coins and that from the improper manner in which they were handled by this clerk they were blemished and therefor collectors ought not to be compelled to pay a premium for such ignorance and incompetency displayed by the clerk in charge of that department. Deponent further states that the clerk informed him that there was no proof gold dollars to be had and that he then requested to be furnished with two silver proof sets and twenty minor proof sets and when said request was made the clerk made some remark which left the impression on deponent's mind that he the clerk was conferring a great favor upon him and acted as though he owned the entire Mint and the contents thereof. Deponent therefore claims that the Government should not employ clerks unless they are fully competent for such position and said clerk having been shown to be clearly incompetent he should be removed.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of December 1886.
H.P. Smith

Edwin Laita
Notary Public 161
New York County.
Term expires March 30th, 1887.